

# Mississippi LPN Association Student Nurse Organization Scholastic Event Essay Contest rev. Sept 2010

Student Nurse Associations across Mississippi will be observing National Nurses' Week each year. With this in mind, MLPNA is pleased to invite your school to participate in the Mississippi LPN Association Student Nurse Essay Contest.

## Guidelines

1. Each student should be a member of MLPNA and currently enrolled in good standing in a Mississippi LPN Program.
2. Essays should reflect the MLPNA theme, the professional role of the LPN, and any job task of the LPN.
3. **Theme will be announced for the following year by MLPNA board the state convention.**
4. **All work judged must be original work of the student.**

## 5. Purpose

For the purposes of the Mississippi LPN Association Essay Contest, an essay is a three-part paper that lies out and develops creative thinking regarding the role of the LPN. Although researching the topic to find examples that support your points is crucial to writing your essay, it should be more than a research paper. A narrative description of an event, or a statement of opinion is encouraged.

Your essay should contain the following:

- An **introduction**, which introduces the subject and contains an explanation of your views of the role of the LPN. The objective is to demonstrate that you understand the essay contest theme.
- A **body**, which develops your research and collection of data. The body of analysis may include comparing and contrasting, differentiating among several ideas or events, critiquing a variety of perspectives, interpreting results, or drawing inferences. In this section, you should analyze the role of the LPN. Be sure to identify the sources of your information or ideas.
- A **conclusion**, which summarizes the research and analysis, presented in the essay and sets forth your conclusions. Drawing on ideas already presented, you should demonstrate that your conclusions support the position you put

forward in the opening paragraphs. Your aim is to convince the reader that the MLPNA theme is reasonable and valid.

6. Your essay should also include **notes and a bibliography** except when using APA style:

- **Reference notes** (footnotes or endnotes) give the sources of your information or ideas. Footnotes are placed at the bottom of the page where the information appears. **Alternatively**, you may gather all the notes at the end of the text as endnotes.
- A **bibliography** is a list of the works that you have referred to in your essay or have consulted in order to write it.

Essays that use a variety of sources—academic journals, news magazines, newspapers, books, government documents, publications from research organizations—fare better in the contest.

Citations in the reference notes or bibliography should follow rules given in a handbook such as the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers or the Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Typically an entry will have **at least** the name of the author or editor, title of the work, and date and place of publication. The bibliography should be arranged alphabetically by the last names of the authors.

**Encyclopedias are not acceptable as sources.** Essays citing encyclopedias in notes or bibliography may be disqualified.

**The Internet or World Wide Web should not be the only source for your essay.** Be aware that you may encounter "republished" or "third generation" information on the Internet that is inaccurate or improperly attributed. When citing Internet sources, you must include the following information: author(s), title of work, Internet address, and date information was accessed. Detailed instructions can be obtained from the manuals listed above. For the purposes of this essay, Internet sources should be listed separately from non-electronic sources, such as books, magazines, and newspapers.

7. Type your essay, double-spaced, on one side of white 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper with left and right margins set at 1 1/4 inches each.
8. **Your name and your school's name must not appear anywhere on the essay.**
9. The essay must discuss MLPNA theme and the role of the LPN in a well-organized, well-reasoned essay of no more than 1,500 words. Points will be deducted from essays exceeding the 1,500-word limit. The word count includes articles (the, and, a) and quotations. Only count the body of the

- essay. You must include the exact word count in your student registration form.
10. Include standardized citations and a bibliography. (These are not included in the 1,500-word count.) Essays without these elements will be disqualified.
  11. Write the essay in English and address all parts of the 2008 contest topic. Essays on other topics will be disqualified.
  12. Number the pages of your essay.
  13. Include your name, school, and address **ONLY** on the student registration form.
  14. **Submit four stapled, legible, collated copies of your essay, along with the completed registration form, to the MLPNA registration desk on April 16<sup>th</sup> by 8:00 am**
  15. Attach the student registration form (one copy only) to the top of your essay copies.
  16. Your essay may be disqualified if:
    - It is not on the topic.
    - Registration forms are not complete or contains incorrect information
    - It does not have reference notes and a bibliography.
    - It uses encyclopedia citations in the bibliography, or relies solely on Internet research.
    - It plagiarizes—that is, uses someone else's statements or ideas as your own.

## 17 Judging

Qualified experts selected by MLPNA will score essays submitted to the Mississippi LPN Association. Using the criteria described below. Judges select winning essays. The decisions of the judges are final. Your essay will be judged based on the seven criteria outlined below.

- A. Focus:** Examines how well your essay responds to the theme and the role of the LPN. Does the essay provide specific and thorough views to the entire theme and the role of the LPN? An excellent essay provides specific and thorough responses to all areas.
- B. Organization:** Looks at the structure of your essay and the strength of your thesis statement. Does the essay have an organized structure? An excellent essay has an introduction, a body and a conclusion. The organization includes an excellent thesis and moves the reader through the text.
- C. Analysis:** Considers how well your views of the role of the LPN and the theme are supported. Are the discussion points argued coherently and supported with research? In an excellent essay all of the arguments are strong, well detailed and extremely well supported by convincing and accurate evidence.
- D. Conclusions and Recommendations:** Examines how well conclusions and views are expressed and how closely they follow your personal choice to become a LPN. Conclusions and

recommendations should not present new information: An excellent essay provides a coherent and comprehensive summary based on the data you collected. All of the solutions to the problems presented are specific and well thought out.

- E. Originality:** Looks for creativity in writing. Does the writer develop ideas creatively? In an excellent essay, the writer proposes and develops creative ideas, through the selection of cases and/or examples.
- F. Voice:** Considers how well your writing engages the reader. Is the essay compelling and/or engaging? An excellent essay fully captures the reader's attention. The flow of the essay keeps the reader engaged throughout the entire text.
- G. Style and Mechanics:** Examines how well the essay is written in terms of grammar, spelling, and punctuation, as well as word choice and sentence construction. Is the essay well written? An excellent essay uses standard writing conventions correctly, e.g. grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with no errors. There are no errors in word choice and all sentences are well constructed.

### Judges Score Sheet

<b>Focus</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Comment:</b>
<b>Organization</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Analysis:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Originality</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Voice</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Style and Mechanics</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Comments</b>

**Essay Registration Form**  
**(Summit only One Copy to with four copies of your essay)**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Essays will become the property of MLPNA and may be used for publicity purposes.

I give Mississippi LPN Association to use the submitted essay for publication in recognitions of **National** Nurses' Week and official publications of MLPNA.

I certify that all work judged is original work of the student.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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MLPNA STAFF \_\_\_\_\_

ASSIGNED ESSAY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_